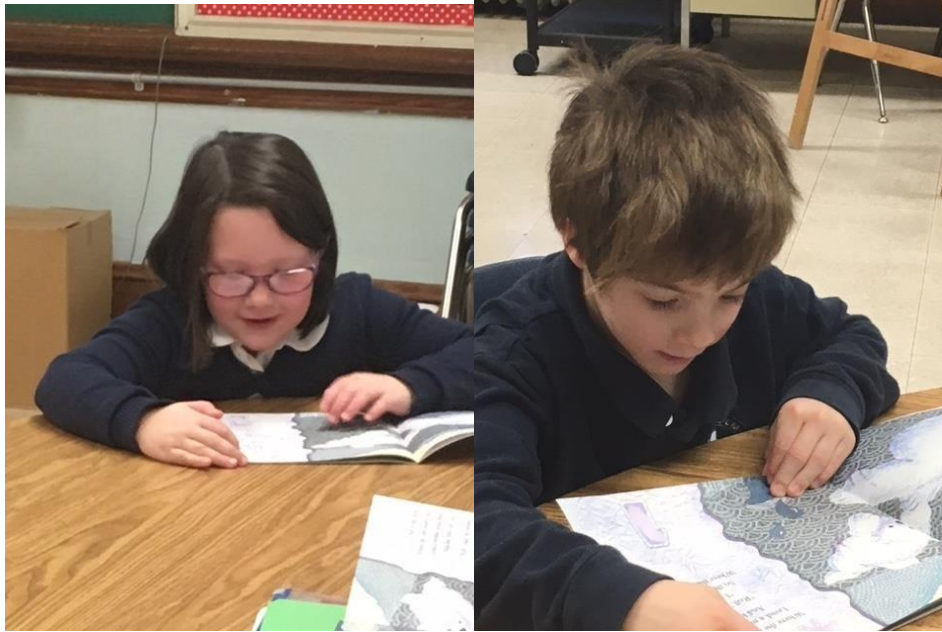


# Saint James School

Happy New Year

January/February 2018

Happy new year to you all! 2017 was strong! Let us keep this up in 2018! Our largest class this year is our kindergarten class! In September we welcomed 17 new families and 22 new students to Saint James School! Saint James School has a great reputation and thank you for continuing to spread the good news of Saint James School. Ratings on the internet and social media are high. We are truly blessed. My wishes to all of the Saint James family for continued peace, joy and good fortune in 2018! May God bless you and hold you in the palm of his hand.



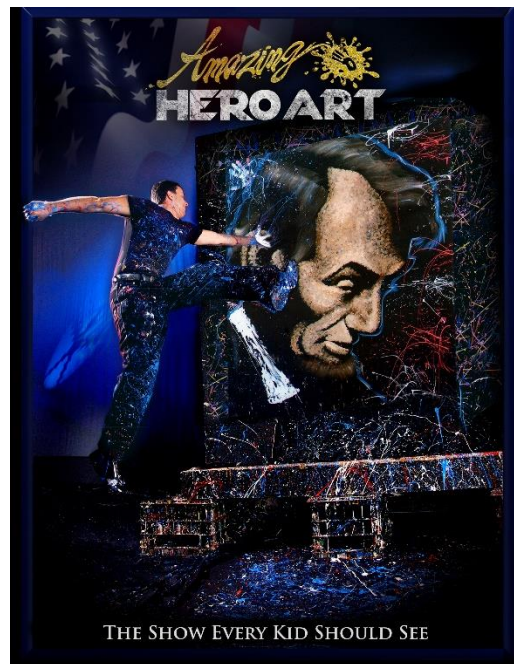
We are very excited to let you know that our sprinkler system is complete and fully operational! This has been a four year project for the safety of our students. There is a wet system in the basement, first and second floor and a dry system in the attic. It was a long process but we are happy to have it in place and we hope that we never have to use it!

Our middle school sports team compete against surrounding schools which are considerably larger so it is a real accomplishment for me to tell you that the boys' basketball team is currently undefeated with only a handful of games left to go in the season.

When the high school seniors came back to Saint James to talk about their experience in high school with eighth graders, we did an informal poll. Over 40% of those that attended the luncheon were in the top 10% of their graduation class and 75% were in the top 25% of their graduating class. All were in the top 50%. This certainly shows that the foundational skills learned at Saint James carry with them into their high school years. Students were majoring in engineering (25%), finance, accounting, biology, health sciences, entrepreneurial business, government and politics, cyber security and defense, culinary and English. I have spoken to many of them as they come back from their first year in high school or first semester in college and they are excelling in many areas. We are so proud of our students and they always are a part of the Saint James family! One of our substitute teachers told us what a pleasure it is when she walks into Saint James and sees the morals and values are valued and and it is so clear that it is passed on to the students. That made my heart smile!

We plan to host our first cultural fair in March to celebrate the diversity that we have present at Saint James School. Each class is going to choose one country to study and then to present to the school so we can all learn more about these countries. If you would like to celebrate your heritage with the school, please contact your child's teacher. In the case of multiple countries, the classroom teacher will choose one this year but we hope to make this an annual event and will put you first for next year!

We truly believe the Lord watches over this school and we are excited to share with you the great art work of Rob Surette and his Amazing Hero Art Show! He will be here for a school show and an evening performance on Friday, February 2nd at 6:00 in the Saint Joseph's Church basement. Gather your extended family and friends as this is a show not to miss! There will be no charge for the performance but there will be a donation jar at the door. The PFTA paid for this performance and it is because of everyone's help and volunteerism at our fundraisers that we can host such events. Thank you so much for all that you do! This performance will culminate Catholic Schools Week. We will start Catholic Schools Week by having a 4:00 mass at Saint Joseph's Church on Saturday, January 27th followed by a turkey supper. Two exciting events in a row!



You are our greatest advertising and we ask you all to spread the news and invite some families to our open houses. They will be on January 25th, February 27th, March 27th and April 27th. We are going to send home five postcards to each family to invite families to our open houses and to our Rob Surette show. Would you start thinking of to whom you might send a postcard? Many families look on social media before they consider a school. Any positive comments about the school posted on sites such as FaceBook, Great Schools, privateschoolreview or others are very much appreciated!

Staff are currently reviewing report cards and we hope to have report cards in place for next year that give you more information. The prekindergarten is looking at something to report skills for three year olds and four year olds. The kindergarten and first grade will be following a similar format including skills and interpersonal skills. Grades two through five are working together on their report card and middle school is looking at improving the conduct and effort part of their report card. This should give you all more information. We will be working on it during the next early release Wednesdays.

We also will be changing to trimesters instead of quarters. The reason for this change is to have more information in place for grading periods. When you are using quarters, some of the quarters are shortened. The first one comes very quickly and the middle one often has snow days. By having more time in a trimester, you would have more information. Also, we would still do our parent-teacher conferences in the fall to give you information on how your child is doing but your child would have time to turn that grade around by the end of the first trimester. Once we have something significant, we will share the report cards with you so you can see what to expect. If you want to send any input to me on this change, feel free.

Some 25th anniversary limited edition soft shell vests are available in the office. Come take a look!

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your constant support, for your encouragement, for your volunteerism, for your smiles, and most of all for your wonderful children! I am truly blessed to spend time with them each and every day, Nancy Naimey